

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hot-stamping foil tape cassette, comprising:
 - a hot-stamping foil tape transferred by pressure application together with a value-added medium to said value-added medium;
 - a windup reel for winding up said hot-stamping foil tape;
 - said a source reel on which said hot-stamping foil tape is wound, said windup and source reels being stored in a cassette case; and
 - a shutter;
 - said shutter, except at a time of hot-stamping transfer, being in a protective position that protects said hot-stamping foil tape;
 - said shutter at the time of hot-stamping transfer withdrawing to a withdrawal position that does not interfere with action of said hot-stamping transfer;
 - wherein, after hot-stamping, by said shutter, said hot-stamping foil tape can be peeled from said value-added medium.
2. (Currently Amended) A foil-peeling mechanism for a hot-stamping device, being provided with a hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 1, and a cassette movement mechanism that makes said hot-stamping foil tape cassette come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping and together with this, after hot-stamping, withdrawing said hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium,
 - wherein at the time of hot-stamping, said shutter in said hot-stamping foil tape cassette opens, and on the other hand, after hot-stamping, said shutter is closed in conjunction with withdrawal of said hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium to peel hot-stamping foil tape from said value-added medium.
3. (Original) A foil-peeling mechanism in a hot-stamping device according to claim 2, wherein said cassette movement mechanism has a connection for connecting to said shutter, said shutter being opened and closed by action of said cassette movement mechanism.
4. (Currently Amended) A hot-stamping foil peeling method using a hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - making said hot-stamping foil tape cassette come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping;
 - opening the shutter in said hot-stamping foil tape cassette, after at the time of hot-stamping; and
 - while withdrawing the hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium, closing the shutter to peel the hot-stamping foil tape from said value-added medium.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A hot-stamping foil tape cassette, said hot-stamping foil tape cassette that has stored in a cassette case hot-stamping foil tape transferred by pressure application together with a value-added medium to said value-added medium, said cassette being provided with~~ The hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 1, wherein said cassette is provided with a non-contacting tag that records control information.

Claims 6-11 (Cancelled)

12. (New) A hot-stamping foil cassette, comprising:
a hot-stamping foil;
a carrier film carrying the hot-stamping foil to be pressure transferred to a value-added medium;
a windup reel for winding up the carrier film;
a source reel on which the carrier film is wound, the windup and source reels being stored in a cassette case; and
a shutter operable to be in a protective position that protects the hot-stamping foil being carried by the carrier film and to be in a withdrawal position that does not interfere with an action of hot-stamping;
wherein, after hot-stamping, the shutter is operable to peel the pressure transferred hot-stamping foil from the carrier film.

13. (New) The hot-stamping foil cassette according to claim 12, further comprising a cassette movement mechanism operable to make the cassette case come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping and after hot-stamping, withdraw the cassette case from the value-added medium,
wherein at the time of hot-stamping, the shutter opens, and after hot-stamping, the shutter is closed in conjunction with withdrawal of the cassette case from the value-added medium to peel the hot-stamping foil from the carrier film.


14. (New) The hot-stamping foil cassette according to claim 13, wherein the cassette movement mechanism has a connection for connecting to the shutter, the shutter being opened and closed by action of the cassette movement mechanism.

15. (New) The hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 12, wherein:
at the time of hot-stamping, the shutter is opened and the cassette case comes in contact with the value-added medium;
after the hot-stamping, the cassette case is withdrawn from the value-added medium

while the shutter closes to peel the carrier film from the hot-stamping foil on the value-added medium.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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